KATIVIK

PRESS RELEASE

Nunavik has a prospective team for the International Pee-wee tournament in Québec city

Kuujjuaq, Québec – December 19, 2006 – The Nunavik Youth Development Program with Joé Juneau and the Kativik Regional Government's Recreation department was held in Salluit from December 4th to 8th 2006. During the one week training session, some 25 kids traveled from 12 Nunavik communities to try out for the Nunavik pee-wee team to participate in the international pee-wee tournament in Québec city in February 2007. Each of the 14 communities were given a chance to send kids to participate in the tryout sessions first in Kuujjuaq and then in Salluit. Every community, except for Kangirsuk and Umiujaq sent players between the ages of 11 and 13 to tryout.

A prospective team of 16 players from Nunavik were selected; Preston Atchynia from Whapmagostui, Ali Audlaluk from Salluit, Charlie Cookie from Kuujjuaraapik, Jerry Dick from Whapmagostui, Paul Duncan from Kuujjuaq, Silasie Gordon from Kuujjuaq, Jiika Gordon from Kuujjuaq, Kaitak Kaitak from Salluit, Justin Lingard from Kuujjuaq, Samuel Misfud from Kangirsujuaq, Ikiarialuk Nappaaluk from Kangirsujuaq, Joe Pilurtuut from Kangirsujuaq, Larry Snowball from Kuujjuaq, Tunu Tarkirk from Salluit, Charlie Tukkiapik from Kuujjuaq and Larry Tukkiapik from Quaqtaq.

The selections were made after test trials were given to the kids. Skating skills, timed forward and backward skating, puck handling skills, gaming skills were among some of the tests the kids underwent in order to make it on the team. Also considered in the selection process were the kid's ages. Since 13 years old is the limit age to qualify for pee-wee, the 13 year old kids trying out were given a chance to participate by being selected on the team.

The selected players will remain on the team, and go to the tournament in Québec city under conditions. They must keep a good behavior in and out of school, attend all their classes in school, keep up with their grades and they must go to all their practices. Should any of these conditions be breached, the player will be replaced by another from the list that was cut. Notes on all players from the tryouts were kept by the Hockey trainers; therefore replacements will be picked according to their notes.

The next training sessions will be held in Inukjuaq from January 8th to 12th 2007 and in Quaqtaq on the following week, from January 15th to 19th 2007. The selected players from the Nunavik pee-wee team will travel to the mentioned communities to train, with Joé Juneau, for the tournament. Efforts will be made with the schools in the two communities of Inukjuaq and Quaqtaq to place the 16 kids into class rooms so they don't fall behind in their school work.

Joé Juneau went to College and University where he received a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After graduating he went to the Olympics, where he won a silver medal.

Juneau was drafted 81st overall in the 1988 NHL entry draft by the Boston Bruins. In his first full season with Boston, Juneau finished with 32 goals, 70 assists and 102 points, setting a Bruin record for assists and points by a rookie. Juneau has also made stops in Washington, Buffalo, Ottawa, Phoenix and Montreal.

The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, whose jurisdiction covers nearly the entire territory of Quebec north of the 55th parallel. The KRG administers the affairs of Nunavik in the areas of municipal affairs, transportation, environment, police, employment, manpower training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use management, civil security and economic development.

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